

January 9, 2012

Dear Dean Frumkin, SPH Executive Committee, and Faculty Council:

The students of the UW School of Public Health would like to congratulate the Steering Committee, its co-chairs Rich Fenske and Andy Stergachis, and the Dean for successfully conducting school-wide strategic planning during such a critical time for our school. There is a growing need for collaboration in multi-disciplinary challenges in health and health care, mastering new techniques for data collection and analysis, and reaffirming our school's importance amidst a climate of public disinvestment. The Strategic Plan is an essential element in building our status as a leading institution of public health.

Foremost, the strategic planning process has *excited* and *inspired* us to imagine what we could accomplish with a deliberate process of employing the school's resources to enhance our current strengths and tackle major public health challenges. With this spirit of excitement, we endorse the Strategic Plan and highlight the following aspects we feel are of greatest importance to current and future students:

- **School-Wide Support:** As researchers and practitioners, we are excited about the potential for a new era of school-wide collaborative initiatives, to include dedicated funds for teaching, hiring junior faculty, and research in innovative disciplines that have been traditionally lacking.
- **Interdisciplinary Approaches:** As future practitioners and policy makers, we express our enthusiasm for building a school brand and expertise around tackling big public health challenges by joining internal strengths such as genomics, health policy, and global health with other disciplines throughout the University of Washington, including built environments, climate change, public policy, and social determinants of health.
- **The "Public" In Public Health:** As tuition payers and public health advocates, we recognize the critical need to leverage school-wide assets to improve our visibility within UW and Washington State. We have as strong a case for our impact on the wider community as any other public institution and yet we continue to endure cuts from the state. We keenly hope this plan will serve as a first step to move the school towards long-term financial sustainability as a state institution rather than stop-gap measures that undermine both the accessibility of graduate education as well as our commitment to the communities we serve.
- **Public Service:** Similarly, we hope school-wide efforts include new ways to engage local and state communities as partners across the breadth of research and practice work that we do. The work we do must be both relevant and inclusive of our local, state, national, and global communities. When conducting outreach, the school can serve as a liaison between the many worthwhile public health endeavors occurring in our communities and the expertise within our departments.
- **Diversity:** Finally, we applaud the emphasis on diversity in all of its meanings, from social diversity in faculty recruitment to intellectual diversity in research and the educational curriculum. We must be

representative of the communities we serve, as well as do the best work in the midst of a variety of viewpoints and avenues of inquiry.

While the planning process was undoubtedly strenuous, the most significant challenges lie ahead in ensuring this strategic plan is effectively implemented, evaluated, and revisited. We recognize there are challenges in coordinating efforts across a school with such depth and complexities in its varied disciplines. However, we trust departmental and faculty leadership will continue the critical work of balancing long-standing success within our individual disciplines with our shared ambitions towards larger joint ventures.

We also believe that greater direct representation from students of all SPH departments and programs in the coming implementation process will be essential in guaranteeing the success of the process. Students are incredibly passionate about the mission of public health and can be a unifying force when the need for greater collaboration is as clear as it is today. We have great hopes that this strategic plan marks the beginning of a new era of communication and collaboration that will ensure our school remains a top choice for leaders in public health research, practice, and advocacy for years to come.

Sincerely,

The Students and Graduate Council of the University of Washington School of Public Health

Abebe Aberra (GH)	Nathan Furukawa (GH)	Toluwalose Okitika (DEOHS)
Amira Adam (GH)	Michael Garcia (BIOSTATS)	Rudolf Owens (HSERV)
Renee Agatsuma (IPHG)	Leslie Goo (GH)	Valerie Pacino (COPHP)
Ashraf Amin Amlani (HSERV)	Jesse Gritton (HSERV)	Kristen Pietila (EPI)
Laura Austin (GH)	Renee Heffron (EPI)	Duane Quistberg (EPI)
Matthew P. Banegas (HSERV)	Susan Hernandez (HSERV)	Claire Rainey (EPI)
Jeanette Birnbaum (HSERV)	Karen Hinckley Stukovsky (EPI)	Ian Randall (HSERV)
Nicole Boyle (EPI)	Jonathan Huang (EPI)	Marissa Robertson (HSERV)
Halley Brunsteter (GH)	Silvia Huaynoca Quisbert (GH)	Megan Romano (EPI)
Gregory Calip (EPI)	Samuel Jenness (EPI)	Alison Rustagi (EPI)
Sarah Charlesworth (EPI)	Paula Kett (HSERV)	Steven Smith (BIOSTATS)
Laura Chavez (HSERV)	Christine Khosropour (EPI)	Amy Spieker (EPI)
Roxana Chen (HSERV)	Stephanie Kneeshaw-Price (HSERV)	Mary Stasio (GH)
Bryn Chowchuvech (GH)	Jonathan Kocarnik (IPHG)	Lauren Sterling (EPI)
Hannah Cohen-Cline (EPI)	Sooraj Kuttykrishnan (BIOSTATS)	Sophia Teshome (HSERV)
Sara Colling (HSERV)	Mercy Laurino (IPHG)	Anjali Truitt (IPHG)
Danny Colombara (EPI)	Chao-Kang Liang (BIOSTATS)	Jenna Udren (HSERV)
Nicole Dankerlui (GH)	David Liss (HSERV)	Kristen Upson (EPI)
Luke Davies (GH)	Molly Melbye (HSERV)	Anjuli Wagner (EPI)
John Dickerson (HSERV)	Rebekah Miner (GH)	Lorelei Walker (IPHG)
Laura Dwyer-Lindgren (GH)	Quincy Moore (EPI)	Erin Wallace (EPI)
Consuelo Echeverria (GH)	Kimberly Mukerjee (GH)	Chris Whidbey (GH)
Onyinye Edeh (GH)	Laura Newman (EPI)	April Wicks (EPI)
Noah Espinoza (EPI)	Michele Nucci (HSERV)	Peter Kithene Wilson (GH)
Jing Fan (BIOSTATS)	Gillian O'Bryan (GH)	Faye Ziegeweid (COPHP)